[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

(*d*) The Member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) above.

Reduction of Work Establishments in the Public Works Department.

260. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Are not the staff and work establishments of the Public Works Department designed for having the work of maintenance of roads, etc., conducted through departmental agency and not through contractors?

(*b*) As most of the works are now done through the agency of contractors, cannot the staff and work establishments be considerably reduced and the savings spent on works?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No. They are intended for the supervision of works conducted both through departmental and contract agencies.

(*b*) No since supervision is all the more necessary in the case of works done through contract agency.

Separation of Investigation and Works Sections in the Public Works Department.

261. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased, in the interests of more efficient work, to separate the investigation from the works section in the Public Works Department under the same controlling officer, *viz.*, the Chief Engineer, as in British India?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the present strength of the controlling, executive and supervising officers in the Public Works Department is more than sufficient for effecting this separation without additional expense?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The matter will be considered.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Pass System in the General Hospital.

262. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the 'pass system' introduced in the General Hospital; and

(*b*) if so, with what object?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The objects with which the 'pass system' was introduced are—

(1) To prevent people from disturbing the patients as it is a recognised principle in treatment that those who are ill should be kept as quiet as possible and free from all bodily and mental worry.

(2) To allow the hospital staff to examine and nurse the patients without let or hindrance.

(3) To prevent theft of hospital articles and of patients' belongings.

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(4) To prevent crowding of visitors and idlers in the verandahs and wards.

(5) To prevent the swarming, sometimes in large numbers, of sight-seers, etc., when a police case or a case of accidental injury is brought in.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Does not this 'pass system' compel patients to crowd in the outer ward to get prescription ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Do you mean the out-patients' ward ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I believe they have a separate entrance.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : There may be a separate entrance ; but, does not this 'pass system' prevent the patients from choosing the doctor they like ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It does not. The main entrance is to the in-patient department. The 'pass system' is in force to prevent indiscriminate entrance into the in-patient department.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Does not this 'pass system' prevent a patient from choosing the doctor he likes ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : No ; once admission is given he can seek any doctor he likes.

Admission of Labour cases in the District Hospital, Quilon.

263. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that labour cases are admitted in the Quilon District Hospital when there is the Victoria Hospital for women and children ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Labour cases are not generally admitted into the Quilon District Hospital since there is no labour ward attached to the institution, but patients in labour who wished to be attended by the Medical Officer in charge of the District Hospital, Quilon, have been admitted sometimes to that Hospital.

Damage to Paddy Lands on account of the Floods in Tulam 1101 and Relief Measures.

264. **MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI** (*Agastisvaram*) : (1) Are the Government aware that, in the Trivandrum Division, crops on thousands of acres of paddy lands, both in and out of the area commanded by the Kodayar Project, have been destroyed, and hundreds of acres of paddy lands have been silted up with sand on account of the floods in Tulam last ?

(2) Have they collected statistics regarding the number of acres of land the crops on which have been destroyed and also of the area silted up ?

(3) If so, what was the total area of such lands in the Trivandrum Division ?

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